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**FIVE AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
RECEIVE RECOGNITION AT 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S AWARDS CEREMONY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that the Department of Justice held its 20<sup>th</sup> annual Executive Office for United States Attorneys Director's Awards Ceremony today in which 269 award recipients received recognition for their excellence in law enforcement. Recipients include Assistant United States Attorneys, litigation and information technology support personnel, as well as others who have made outstanding contributions in federal, state, and local enforcement.

The Eastern District of California's award recipients for Superior Performance as an Assistant United States Attorney, were Assistant United States Attorneys Jodi B. Rafkin and R. Steven Lapham for their work in prosecuting Kevin Ray Patterson and Charles Kiles for a conspiracy plot to blow up two large propane tanks at Suburban Propane located in the Sacramento area. They were convicted of conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction and conspiracy to use a destructive device. Also recognized was Special Agent Michael LeMieux, Federal Bureau of Investigation, in the Outstanding Contributions in Law Enforcement category, for his investigation of Patterson and Kiles.

In addition, Assistant United States Attorneys Benjamin B. Wagner and James P. Arguelles were awarded for their work on the Anderson Ark case. Wayne Anderson and Richard Marks were convicted of a money laundering conspiracy and money laundering in connection with their activities as leaders of an international organization that helped clients launder their funds and evade taxes by using a network of bank accounts around the world. A third defendant, Karolyn Grosnickle had previously pleaded guilty to money laundering.

"Those honored today are shepherds of justice dedicated to the enhancement of liberty through the law," said Attorney General John Ashcroft at today's ceremony. "You have kept America safe from terrorism, brought violent crime to an historic 30-year low, forged new relationships of trust and cooperation, and most of all, protected and defended the Constitutional rights and liberties of all Americans. Thank you for your leadership and for your dedicated service."

Although terrorism is the top priority of the Department of Justice, the Department has continued its mission to enforce all of our nation's laws, including prosecuting environmental crime, civil rights violations, and drug crimes, as well as representing our client agencies,

conducting civil enforcements, seeking asset forfeiture and assisting victims of crime. Crime has dropped to a 30-year low as the Department has employed tough tools and tough penalties against criminals who have victimized the innocent. The Department has implemented President Bush's Project Safe Neighborhoods' initiative, increasing federal gun prosecutions by 36 percent, and reducing gun crimes so dramatically that last year only 7 percent of crimes were committed with a firearm—the lowest ever. The war on drugs has been reinvigorated and the country is celebrating record lows in student drug use while government seizures of heroin have doubled in two years. In addition, the Department-led Corporate Fraud Task Force has restored integrity to the marketplace by cracking down on companies and corporate executives who abused the trust of their employees and investors. Last year, the Department collected a record \$2.1 billion in fraud settlements against the United States, and collected a record \$202 million in civil penalties from polluters. The Department developed the government's first ban on racial profiling by federal law enforcement, successfully resolved decades-long civil rights investigations, and worked to bring communities together in a way that respects the rights of all Americans. The Civil Rights Division charged more defendants for criminal bias-motivated civil rights violations in 2001-2002 than in 1999-2000, and hate crimes are down almost 25 percent from last year.

“We are very proud of the staff in this office who work hard every day to protect our communities, and we are particularly grateful for this recognition from the United States Department of Justice,” stated United States Attorney Scott.

The Executive Office for United States Attorneys provides oversight, general executive assistance and direction to the 94 United States Attorneys' offices around the country.

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